

12th Grade College Preparedness Timeline

Year Focus: Maintain academic focus while enjoying time with family and growing in leadership. The fall semester is spent completing college applications so remembering your priorities will help you through this busy season.

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend application workshops and help sessions. • Update your resume with your summer activities, Update Naviance with the schools you are interested in • Request letters of recommendation if you have not already done so. • Complete a rough draft of your personal statement. • Study for the SAT/ACT if you are taking it again this semester.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write all deadlines in your student planner. • Submit 2nd and 3rd drafts of your personal statement. • Attend application workshops and help sessions. Most applications are due in October. • Submit first draft of all essays due November 1st or 15th.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshop and file your FAFSA • Attend rep visits at school to build a relationship with your rep and ask questions • Take SAT/ACT early this month if you are trying to raise your score. • Tour colleges on your final list over fall break if you are able and have not yet done so. • Finalize your personal statement and any essays due in November. • Ensure all pieces of your application are in process and uploaded to Naviance once completed (letters of recommendation, essays, personal statement, FAFSA, etc.) • Keep an eye on your application deadlines. Server errors are not uncommon, so do not wait until 11:30pm to meet a midnight deadline. Earlier is always better to submit.
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit a rough draft and one edit for all essays due in December. • Research and apply for at least one scholarship.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write thank you notes to teachers who wrote a letter of recommendation for you. • Finalize essays due in January. • Notify your counselor and update your Naviance account of admissions decisions/financial aid/scholarships as they come in. Schedule a family meeting with the counselor for guidance. • Apply for scholarships over the break. These will really add up and it can be fun to research all the different options available.
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for SAT/ACT if you are taking it again this spring. • Make an appointment with your counselor to discuss where you are in the application process, any Plan B options, and get directions/encouragement for the spring semester. • Work on summer class/program applications. • Continue applying for scholarships. Add time to your calendar so you will follow through on the task. (Ex: 1 hour every Sunday afternoon) • Check deadlines, required forms

February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations! If you have already completed your applications, the busiest time of the college application process is behind you! • Continue applying for scholarships. • Financial Aid deadlines are here – make sure your forms are completed • Check credit by examination policies at your admitted colleges
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your counselor up to date on your college decisions. • Continue applying for scholarships. • Schedule a college visit if you are on the fence between two or more schools.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue applying for scholarships. • College Decision Day is May 1st so begin making your final decisions and notify all schools you were accepted to whether you decided to attend or not attend.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Senior Check Out to make sure all Senior tasks are completed so you can graduate. Confirm your counselor knows what school to send your final transcript. • Matriculation Day – make your deposit for your cap and gown • Make your down payment for Freshman Year at your chosen college.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you know when tuition and room and board payments are due. Register for fall classes. • Sign up for summer orientations.

Δ Note: If you are applying to Texas A&M, registration opens August 1st. They use a rolling admissions system which means, once they meet capacity, they will no longer admit students. It is prudent to apply in September if possible. You will need to complete many of the August-October items during June and July.